In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling interoperability of members of a cluster, comprising:

creating a version control system including a disk header record of a shared storage resource and a version control record within said shared resource, said version control record to organize meta data in a known location in said shared resource in communication with said cluster, said version control record comprising all versions of each type of data structure in said shared resource;

the ~~date~~ data structure in the shared resource representing target data of software application operating on cluster nodes, wherein at least two cluster nodes operate different version of said software application;

validating software compatibility of a new cluster member with target data retained in said shared resource assigned to the cluster, separately using the disk header record and the version control record prior to ~~a~~ said new cluster member joining said cluster; and

an application operating on said new cluster member ~~joining~~ accessing said ~~cluster~~ target data responsive to validation of software compatibility.

2. Cancel

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of validating software compatibility of said new cluster member includes scanning said version control record for a data structure version conflict.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining a table within said version control record of an operating software version of each node in said cluster.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising validating compatibility of each node in said cluster with said operating software version table prior to upgrading each data structure in said shared resource.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of validating compatibility of each of said nodes in said cluster is inclusive of inactive cluster nodes.

7. Cancel

8. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:

at least two nodes to operate in a computer cluster, each of said nodes having a processor and memory, and in communication with a storage network;

a data structure in the shared resource to represent target data of a software application;

a version control system in communication with said nodes, said version control system having a disk header record of a shared storage resource and a version control record within said shared resource, said version control record to organize meta data in a known location in said shared resource in communication with said cluster;

said version control record inclusive of all versions of each type of data structure in said shared resource; ~~and~~

the data structure in the shared resource representing target data of software application operating on cluster nodes, wherein at least two cluster nodes operate different version of said software application; and

a membership manager in communication with said version control system to validate compatibility of a new cluster member with target data retained within each of said data structures with use of said disk header record and said version control record prior to acceptance of said new cluster member.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising an operating software version table within said version control record.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, further comprising a validation manager to validate compatibility of an existing cluster member with said operating software version table prior to an upgrade of each data structure in said shared storage.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said validation manager is inclusive of inactive cluster nodes.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, further comprising a version manager to scan a data structure type record within said shared resource prior to access of said version control record by a cluster member.

13. Canceled.

14. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a data structure in a shared resource representing target data of a software application;

a computer-readable recordable data storage medium including instructions comprising:

instructions to provide a version control system including a disk header record of a shared resource and a version control record of said shared resource, said version control record to organize meta data in a known location in said shared resource, said version control record inclusive of each type of data structure in said shared resource; ~~and~~

the data structure in the shared resource representing target data of software application operating on cluster nodes, wherein at least two cluster nodes operate different version of said software application; and

instructions to validate compatibility of a new cluster member with target data retained within storage media in said shared resource assigned to a cluster separately using said disk header record and said version control record prior to said new cluster member joining said cluster.

15. Canceled

16. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14, further comprising instructions to validate compatibility of each cluster member prior to upgrading each data structure in said shared resource.

17. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16, wherein said compatibility validation instruction accesses an operating software version table within said version control record.

18. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16, wherein said compatibility validation instruction includes inactive cluster nodes.

19. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14, further comprising instructions to scan a data structure type record prior to access of said version control record.

20. (Cancel)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of validating software compatibility of said new cluster member with storage media includes determining said header record of a master disk in said shared resource is compatible with software operating in the new cluster member.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein said membership manager determines said header record of a master disk in said shared resource is compatible with software operating in the new cluster member.

23. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14, wherein the instructions to validating software compatibility of said new cluster member with storage media includes instructions to determine said header record of a master disk in said shared resource is compatible with software operating in the new cluster member.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each data structure is permanently assigned a position within the version control record.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said version control record is available to all server nodes that are members of the cluster and nodes requesting membership in the cluster.